

Todd Kozel - Personal experience of John Stafford

I know Todd through my experience at Gulf Keystone Petroleum, where I joined in February 2009 prior to drilling the Shaikan discovery well. This narrative is a brief summary of my professional experience with respect to Todd, his behaviour and management style.

Yazidi's

The ancient Zoroastrian Yazidi religion has its most sacred site in the Shaikan License. This is the group that were subsequently ruthlessly exploited by ISIS suffering huge humanitarian damage. However, prior to this before most people were aware of their existence Todd authorised considerable assistance for the Yazidi people. There is an annual pilgrimage to their shrine which attracts many thousands of followers. Todd instructed the Company to provide water stations for the pilgrims and clearance of the highways as many were barefoot. After the event he further volunteered the Company resources to clear the area of litter. Please note this was not a matter of a couple of trash cans this was cleaning up after a small town had vacated the area. This was not a contractual or governmental obligation and no publicity was sought in execution.

Local Projects and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Since the inception of the Kurdistan project Todd was insistent that engagement with the local community was paramount. In this respect improvements to local roads were instigated and building works commissioned at the local school. Further works on power infrastructure and other projects were authorised by Todd prior to the adoption of a formal CSR project in 2013.

Adnan Samarrai scholarship

Todd instructed the Company to help local technical staff via a scholarship program. This was named after the late Iraqi geologist and 'father of Shaikan' Adnan Samarrai. This was an annual scheme in which talented local geologists and engineers were identified and funded through an MSc. in a top UK university. All travel, subsistence and course fee costs were covered by the program. By the time of my leaving the company at least six people had benefitted from this scheme. Again, this was not a contractual, CSR or governmental obligation it was simply Todd doing the right thing, once more no publicity or personal gain was sought from these activities.

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Ruta. I am the daughter, the wife and, most important, the mother. The mother of the boy named Rokas. Of the boy whom we refer to as a miracle in our family.

When I was pregnant with Rokas, we believed that he will be born healthy, just as many other children. To our surprise, his birthday changed our lives significantly. First, Rokas was not breathing after he was born. Later, we found out even more various diagnoses. Microtia of the right ear, dermoid near the right eye, the right jaw was missing, cleft palate and the open lip. On the third day of his life, Rokas has undergone surgical operation and tracheostoma was inserted in order for him to be able to breath. After a while, he was diagnosed with Goldenhar syndrome. The syndrome which is absolutely rare in Lithuania, the country that we live in.

I thank God for knowing Inga (Inga Kozel) who is my friend since the childhood. As soon as she found out about our troubles, Inga shared all information with her husband Todd Kozel. Thanks to these people Rokas has a chance. A chance to be treated in the country where doctors have to deal with this syndrome quite often. A chance to be treated in the country where doctors are able and have experience in performing surgical operations that our Rokas needs very much. A wonderful team of doctors was gathered together. The team agreed to review all information about Rokas and decided that they can help. We were granted this chance in full extent only thanks to Todd because such treatment costs a lot of money and we would not have been able to provide our son with such a highly needed treatment.

All surgical operations are important. Rokas has already undergone three of them in the US. But the first operation was very memorable. At the time when Rokas was treated either in Lithuania or in London, England, doctors decided that Rokas breathes well enough. Indeed, a sleep study showed that Rokas breathed easily only during the day. At night he breathed only when he was not asleep. After falling asleep, he would sleep for 20 to 30 seconds, until he felt shortness of breath. Then he would wake up, take a breath and would fall asleep again. This was usually happening on a continuous basis. Sometimes, while rolling over during sleep, Rokas could find a proper sleeping posture, but, in most cases, he slept very badly. This affected his physiological development. Rokas faced a growth challenge. During the first operation, his own rib bone was used to form the right jaw. When, after this operation, swelling subsided, Rokas had good sleep for the first time after his birth (on the day of the operation, Rokas was 5 years old). He did not feel shortness of breath during the night. He no longer needed to wake up in order to inhale. This was like a miracle for us.

This is how the life brought us together with Todd. He not only gave us a chance to get the best possible treatment for our son and not only welcomed our family at his home each time we arrived to New York for treatment purposes. And he not only was always hospitable, friendly and made us laugh because his sense of humour is simply perfect. First of all, he gave Rokas a chance to live. A chance to live a full life, a chance to have enough time to enjoy his childhood. To swim in the pool in summer (Rokas loves swimming and can stay for a very long time underwater. My mom says that his body probably got used to endure long intervals of time without oxygen). To attend a school. To learn and to be a great student who is almost always rated the best by his teachers.

We have no doubt that our miracle will achieve a lot in his life. It already seems that he has brought down the mountains with his courage. There are no words to express our gratitude that we feel every day towards Todd and Inga.

Ruta Zalage, the mother of Rokas
/Signature/

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To whom it may concern

Hello, my name is Vytenis. I was born, raised and I am now residing in Lithuania. I am happily married, we have two beautiful children: son Rokas and daughter Tėja. I and my wife have a family business together.

After our first child Rokas was born, he was diagnosed with Goldenhar syndrome, the newborn could not breath by himself. He was intubated from the very beginning and he was fed through a tube. It was very unexpected and it was a great shock to our family since doctors had not noticed any possible lesions prior to delivery. Since the population in Lithuania is only about 2.7 million, it is obvious that this syndrome in the country is very rare.

Rokas had cleft lip operated by the best paediatric doctors in Lithuania. Palate surgeries were performed twice, but they both were unsuccessful. Then we got help and were referred to London, England. There, again, palate surgeries were performed. These surgeries helped to restore only the soft palate. The hard palate remained the way it was. After a year, with the help of London doctors, tracheostomy tube was removed and he finally could breathe on his own. However, his sleep results were very bad. Back then Rokas was already 3 years old.

After my and my wife's childhood friend Inga Kozel found out about Rokas and his complicated diagnosis, she together with her husband Todd Kozel started thinking of a plan how to help us. The Kozel family gathered the best team of doctors who consulted between themselves and decided that there were many surgeries that they could perform and that were vital to Rokas. When they prepared a funding plan. They made different arrangements so that Rokas could be treated in the US. Since we needed to fly to the US several times for surgeries, we needed to obtain the US travel visas. Todd Kozel wrote reference letters and helped to collect various documents so that Rokas would be taken care of as soon as possible.

We arrived to the US for the first time for the treatment of Rokas. The team of Rokas' doctors promptly decided that Rokas needed surgery and that he needed it as soon as possible. At the time he struggled very much with breathing. His development was impaired. With the help and support of Inga and Todd Kozel, we returned to the US for surgery, and it was only a month after our first visit. It was the first time that we met Todd in person. I am very grateful to Todd and Inga for everything that they have done for our son Rokas. That year was revolutionary. The surgery when a rib was used for the right lower jaw of Rokas changed a lot. It was the first time that we saw Rokas sleeping calmly, undisturbed and being able to rest all night and recreate himself. The way they believed in Rokas, the way we believe in Rokas is very important to us. Even some doctors did not believe that such a turn in Rokas' path was possible.

Todd Kozel is a friendly, honest and kind man. He is always helpful, hospitable and willing to help as much as he can. His dedication to helping Rokas in terms of his health is an obvious proof of that. And the fact that the rest people do not know about his works is a proof that it is not important to him to boast about what he has done to help other people. I and my wife are blessed that even though life sent us such difficult challenges, it also gave us friends with whom we are stronger in this battle.

After this surgery Rokas visited the US several times. We will come here even more times. The goal is clear – to give Rokas a full-fledged and happy life. We will not give up and we will do our best to reach this goal.

Very grateful Vytenis Zalaga, Rokas' father /signature/

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My name is Juozas Buividas. I am Inga's brother. I am doing juice business, and my wife Dovile Buividienė is working in a clinical research organization.

Todd is my brother in law. I met Todd when he was dating my sister, he was CEO of an oil company. Although he was very occupied person, he found time to join our family holidays, family meetings, found time to show his business from the inside, show the country he was working in, people and families with whom he was dealing. In those journeys I noticed he was very kind-hearted person. Was friendly with children and was making warm relations with them no matter what nationality they are, what language they speak or social status they have. Therefore my wife and I asked Todd and Inga to become godparents of our first child. Our invite was warmly accepted and now our daughter has best godparents that could have ever expected. Our kid was treated and cared very well. The best thing was that she was inspired by Todd to take extra English lessons to learn the language better and faster, so she could communicate with her godfather and her cousin. Now the biggest dream of the nine years old girl for a second year in a row is to go to the USA to visit her godparents and demonstrate her improved English, she would give up all her birthday and Christmas presents in order to get a ticket for this trip.

Juozas Buividas
Dovile Buividienė



